

March 5, 1976

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I planned to place an amendment on this desk ... on this bill and it's not here yet. Today is noncontroversial day. I won't do it, but we're going to do that on Select File. I believe this is the only amendment ... the only bill we can use to make sure there is some clear distinction of the Sarpe County water problem. For the information of the body and for information of those interested, we intend to place on this particular bill, I believe this is the one dealing with the county's ability to stop any plan to acquire land in another county for the purpose of transporting water. So, Senator Keyes, this will be the one that we will have an opportunity to put it on if we would wish to go that route. That will be done on Select File.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Well, Senator Lewis, I would appreciate it if you would discuss this with me because I fail to see any relevancy here. Are you sure that you're speaking of the same Section? Well I would renew my motion to advance it to E & R initial.

PRESIDENT: Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays.

PRESIDENT: The bill is advanced. Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. There is a bill, LB 806, which did not quite fit the criteria of the bills that we have on our agenda this morning, but it is extremely important that this bill be advanced this morning. I have been told that there is a problem in Scottsbluff because of a court decision. If you will turn to the Journal on page 910, Dr. Rogers explains there ... and I will read it to save you the problem.... To Senator Burbach. "In answer to your inquiry I would conclude that LB 806 is a priority item of legislative business and should be enacted this session. I have followed, closely, the background of the drafting of this bill, sat with the Public Health and Welfare Committee during its presentation and discussion, have studied closely the opinions of three judges of the Federal District Court handed down in December 1975 declaring unconstitutional Sections of the present commitment statutes. The enactment of LB 806 is necessary to get the statutes in conformity with the courts decision and to give the proper statutory guidance to the local Mental Health Boards as they perform their duties. It would be an addition.... It would in addition serve to head off further legal controversies which could arise in the involuntary commitment of persons to mental health facilities." Signed, Jack W. Rogers, Director of Research.

So I would move that ... or I would suggest that we discuss LB 806 because of the importance and because of a telephone call from Scottsbluff where the Boards are running into serious difficulty. I've also been advised it will not be necessarily controversial.